**Opportunity to be part of a patient advisory group investigating physiotherapist management of people with musculoskeletal conditions in general practice**

Are you a person who has a new or longstanding musculoskeletal problem who would be interested in helping researchers from the University of the West of England? Musculoskeletal conditions affect the muscles, bones and ligaments and examples include arthritis, osteoporosis, hip, knee and low back pain, tennis elbow and frozen shoulder. We are looking for people with a range of musculoskeletal conditions to help us design a research project which will look at the role of physiotherapists providing frontline management for people who have musculoskeletal conditions.

In recent years, General Practitioners (GPs) have experienced significant workload pressures. Research has shown that many GP appointments involve a musculoskeletal condition, such as shoulder, knee and back pain and arthritis. Usual GP care for musculoskeletal pain typically involves assessment, advice, prescription and in some cases referral for further investigations, physiotherapy or opinion from hospital based specialities such as orthopaedics and rheumatology. There is some research to suggest that physiotherapists working within GP surgeries may improve the management of musculoskeletal conditions and many GP practices across the UK are trying this model. We would like to hear what people who have experience of musculoskeletal conditions think about this new way of working. We would also like to design a research project to investigate how physiotherapists are working in these roles throughout the UK.

Taking part in this research will involve participating in a single group discussion. Discussions will focus on your thoughts about this new way of working and about what you think is important in the design of this research project. If the research project gets funded there would be further opportunities for involvement in the design of the project.

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts and helping us develop our research we will pay travel expenses, and a ‘thank you’ payment for your time. You do not need previous experience of taking part in research. We will provide any appropriate training and support you require.

**For further information please contact the convenor:**

**Serena Halls on 0117 32 87802 or e-mail** [**serena.halls@uwe.ac.uk**](mailto:serena.halls@uwe.ac.uk) **by 19th May 2016.**